

and civil rights. Smith was an activist for 30 years. During this time, he was a co-founder of Artists for a Free South Africa and Black voice for Peace. His efforts ranged from a stint as executive director of the Washington Office on Africa during the anti-apartheid movement to work on gun violence and police brutality with the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice.

According to the Afro American article, Ron Daniels founder and president of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century, reflected that Smith was an incredible organizer, an incredible leader and teacher. He was also an incredible human being. I certainly second that assessment.

Journalist George E. Curry wrote that Damu Smith who died at age 54, crammed more into his 54 years on earth than people who live twice as long. Yet, the feeling lingers that he left us too soon. Curry wrote that Smith was a man of integrity and he was a visionary. Those are words of high praise and they are true in describing Damu Smith. I want to add, he was a man with a great heart who spent his life working for those who most needed him.

Damu Smith loved his one child very much. His many friends knew how much and how deeply he loved Asha Hadia Vernice Moore Smith, his 14-year-old daughter. They have set up a trust fund so she will have the opportunity for the education he wanted for her.

I believe if Asha has inherited his heart and his character Damu Smith's daughter will be a light in the world just like her father.

[From the AFRO American News, May 10, 2006]

DAMU SMITH, POPULAR ACTIVIST, DIES AT 54
(By Makani Themba-Nixon)

Damu Smith, internationally renowned activist and a founder of the environmental justice movement, passed away early on May 5 at George Washington Hospital. Surrounded by a crowd of friends and family that spilled down hospital corridors, Smith, 54, succumbed after a year long bout with colorectal cancer. Smith was a dedicated organizer who even at the height of his health challenges found time to support social justice work. In recent months, Smith addressed the Millions More March and a capacity crowd for a TransAfrica forum, despite his ailing health. "He loved his people," says Donelle Wilkins, co-chair of the National Black Environmental Justice Network (NBEJN) an organization she and Smith founded in 1999. "You may have seen him at the big podiums and the big meetings but he was also in the country corners, the small towns, the little places. He rolled up his sleeves. He got his hands dirty."

A St. Louis native and long time Washington, D.C. resident, Smith was a leader and co-founder of several social justice initiatives including Artists for a Free South Africa and Black Voices for Peace. A consummate organizer and bridge builder, Smith's work extended over 30 years and several issues. "He was about bringing justice wherever it was needed," said Wilkins.

Smith's efforts ranged from a stint as executive director of the Washington Office on Africa during the anti-apartheid movement to work on gun violence and police brutality with the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, the National Wilmington 10 Defense Committee and the National Black Independent Political Party. An outspoken activist on peace and disarmament, Smith served as associate director of the Washington Office of the American

Friends Service Committee and traveled internationally to support movements for peace and justice around the world. "He was undoubtedly one of the most important activists of our time," reflected Ron Daniels, founder and president of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century. "He was an incredible organizer, an incredible leader and teacher. He was also just an incredible human being." Perhaps Smith is best known for his groundbreaking work to establish the environmental justice movement. As national associate director and national toxics campaigner for Greenpeace USA, he helped carve out the racial justice analysis that helped distinguish environmental justice from the "green space" focus that typified environmental work of the day.

As the first coordinator for environmental justice for the Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice, Smith gained firsthand experience of the corporate pollution practices that target poor and African American communities. He organized Toxic Tours in the South to help bring national attention to the issue, taking celebrities Alice Walker, Haki Madhubuti and others to the infamous area in Louisiana dubbed Cancer Alley. "The work in Cancer Alley was his heart. He didn't think anything about his well being. He stood in the face of the threats, of the violence, of the toxics. He set an example for what was possible. It gave his community a sense of strength, a sense that together they can make a difference. And they did. It was profound," said Wilkins.

The campaign to force a PVC plant out of Norco, La. was eventually the subject of a Lifetime cable channel movie, {Fenceline: A Company Town Divided}. Smith's efforts helped draw attention to the disproportionate toxic dumping in African-American communities nationwide, which led him to help found the National Black Environmental Justice Network.

"It was his vision to bring Black people together from all over the country to unite us around this issue," Wilkins said. "He single-handedly brought together folk from more than 30 states—welfare moms to PhDs—to give birth to this network. Damu's leadership and commitment was relentless." Although Smith remained executive director of the network until his death, his primary campaign over the last year was his own survival. Friends launched the Spirit of Hope campaign to support Smith with living and healthcare expenses as years of organizing work left him with little resources and without health insurance. His wide network responded with an outpouring of support including a star studded gala last July that brought together artist activists Danny Glover, Bernice Reagon and Sonia Sanchez.

"These resources went to support Damu in acquiring the care he needed," said Sandra Rattley, Spirit of Hope coordinator. "Damu was so grateful. The doctors were saying he only had three months last year but the community came together and literally extended his life. And every month he had, he continued to give back."

Survivors include his daughter Asha Hadia Vernice Moore Smith, 13. He is also survived by a sister Sylance Williams; two brothers Richard Anthony Smith and Leslie Dudley Smith; a significant other Adeleke Foster, two nephews, six nieces and thousands of friends and fellow soldiers in the battle for peace and justice.

Rattley said the community is rallying to ensure that Asha is provided for. Smith often referred to his daughter as the crown jewel of his life and once boasted had started a Black Kids for Peace organization. Friends and colleagues often remarked on what a devoted and caring father Smith was. "I know

that Damu wanted to make sure that Asha is alright," says Rattley. A memorial service is scheduled for 5 p.m. May 20 at Plymouth Congregational Church, 5301 North Capitol St., N.W. in Washington, D.C. In lieu of floral arrangements, the family requests all donations be made to the Asha Moore Smith Trust, 1750 Columbia Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009 or online at www.damusmith.org.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIVONIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN LIVONIA, MICHIGAN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and recognize the 50th anniversary of the Livonia Historical Society in Livonia, Michigan.

For five decades, the Livonia Historical Society has worked to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of our community. Initially founded in 1956 by Gladys and Don Ryder in the Bentley High School library, the Livonia Historical Society serves as guardian over Livonia's original buildings, museums, and homes.

The Livonia Historical Society's extraordinary accomplishments include preserving the Quaker House; and naming a library after prominent Livonia engineer Alfred Noble; and developing the 160-acre Greenmead historical village, which contains the 1820 estate of Joshua Simmons, an 1841 Greek Revival farmhouse, a one-room school house, and a general store. Further, the Livonia Historical Society has collected and protected ancestral records and artifacts; educated the public about the history of Livonia; and held fundraisers to support restorative projects on Quaker Acres.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my hometown's Livonia Historical Society for its first 50 years of noble civic service; and in extending our best wishes as they embark upon their next 50 years of preserving our community's uncommon legacy—and, in the process, selflessly affirming their own.

TRIBUTE TO THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH FLINT TABERNACLE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to South Flint Tabernacle as it celebrates 75 years of worship. The Tabernacle will come together on Sunday, May 21st to pray and rejoice in the blessings be stowed by God for the past 75 years.

Reverend John McLaughlin founded South Flint Tabernacle in 1931. The original worship services were held at Lincoln School in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. A few years later the congregation purchased the land now occupied by the current church in Burton Michigan and embarked upon building a permanent

house of worship. After several building and remodeling projects the church has grown to its present size.

The Reverend Robert E. Henson has been the loving and charismatic pastor since 1979. A vibrant, dynamic congregation supports several ministries including Alcohol Chemical Treatment Ministry, Bus Ministry, Convalescent Ministry, Follow-up Visitation, Home Bible Studies, Home Friendship Groups, Inner City Evangelism, and Jail Ministry. The congregation and clergy live and pray their stated beliefs: The Bible is the inspired Word of God; There is only one God; Jesus Christ is God manifested or revealed in the flesh; The plan of salvation is clearly stated in the Holy Bible; The believer should live his or her life consecrated to the Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ is coming again; There will be a final judgment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the South Flint Tabernacle as it celebrates 75 years of prayer, adoration, fellowship, and outreach. The clergy, congregation and staff are to be commended for their pledge to bring about positive changes in their community and to support each other in the everyday struggles of human life. Their commitment to their faith is an inspiration to all privileged to witness their actions.

A TRIBUTE TO FLORENCE
RICKETTS GAYNOR ON THE
CELEBRATION OF HER 105TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Florence Ricketts Gaynor, my constituent, who will celebrate her birthday on May 18, 2006. She will be 105 years of age. I offer my congratulations to her on this special day, and my hearty wishes that she celebrate many more.

Born on May 18, 1901, Mrs. Gaynor was one of eight children of Frances Drake and James Ricketts who resided in Crooked River, Clarendon, Jamaica, West Indies. In the 1920's, she married Gilbert Gaynor in May Pen, Clarendon, where they had six children.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Gaynor remained active in the church, especially the Mother's Union. She worked as a sales clerk and a seamstress. She was also employed in the laundry at the U.S. Air Base at Vernon Field, Jamaica. Her husband, Gilbert Gaynor, died in 1978.

Mrs. Gaynor immigrated to New York City in May 2001, shortly after her 100th birthday, to live with two of her daughters—Violet Morgan and Enid Gaynor. They reside on Riverside Drive in the Washington Heights neighborhood of my congressional district.

Mrs. Gaynor has 14 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and one great, great granddaughter.

Mrs. Gaynor attributes her long life to her faith in God and uses white rum as part of her final hair rinse to prevent colds. As a proud resident of the United States, she is very happy to have a permanent resident card even though she has no plans to work.

It is my great privilege to represent Mrs. Gaynor in the Congress of the United States, and I call upon my colleagues to join with me in wishing her a happy birthday and joyous reunion with her family to celebrate the occasion.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH (JOE) F.
DUNNABECK SR.

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Joseph (Joe) F. Dunnabeck, Sr. as he celebrates the arrival of his 90th birthday, May 20, 2006.

An adventurous and spirited leader, Joe dedicated his life to helping others. Joe and Lillian, his wife of 30 years, have led by example, spreading their "no such thing as can't" philosophy. With tireless effort, Joe served his Michigan community as a mechanic at the American Standard before retirement; and he still donates time to support the local Neighborhood Watch.

A devout Catholic, Joe personifies the teachings of his church through fairness, humility, and love. His pure and adventurous spirit has challenged the boundaries of age with his legendary exploits of hang gliding, and riding in hot-air balloons and on air-boats. As he nears his ninth decade of life, Joe's kindheartedness and bravery continues to inspire and ennoble his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of his lifetime of benevolence and courage, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Joe's birthday and thanking him for his contributions to our community and our country.

TRIBUTE TO THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF WHALEY CHILDREN'S CENTER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Whaley Children's Center as it celebrates 80 years helping children in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. Whaley Children's Center will hold an open house on May 18 to showcase their services and commemorate their anniversary.

Robert J. Whaley, then President of Citizens Bank, decided to organize a home for neglected, forgotten children during the 1880s. He made his decision to honor the memory of his deceased son, Donald M. Whaley. At the time of his death at the age of eleven, Donald was saving money to send to an orphanage in the Detroit area. His father conceived of the idea to create a home for less fortunate children and bequeathed in his will the funds to build the Donald M. Whaley Home. On January 26, 1924 the Whaley Foundation was organized under the trusteeship of the wardens and vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. After consulting with the Child Welfare League, the Memorial Home was built in 1926.

The Memorial Home has metamorphosed into the Whaley Children's Center, dedicated to helping troubled children achieve self-sufficiency at the same time meeting their everyday needs. Using the four pillars of the "Circle of Courage" model: Independence, Generosity, Mastery, and Belonging; Whaley Children's Center strives to serve the whole child. At the present time the Whaley Children's Center can serve 51 children through their 18th birthday and high school graduation. They have a separate unit, the McDonald Cottage, for children ages 6 through 10.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the outstanding efforts of the community, volunteers, board and staff of the Whaley Children's Center. Their steadfast devotion to the children they serve is to be commended. I am glad that I have had this opportunity to recognize their hard work and their exceptional achievements helping our troubled youth attain a better future.

NOMINATION OF GEN. MICHAEL
HAYDEN AS DIRECTOR OF THE CIA

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the nomination of Gen. Michael Hayden as the next Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. I have known Gen. Hayden for years and believe he is the most qualified candidate in the country for this critical position.

To further illustrate this point, I would like to call your attention to a recent editorial by retired Gen. Charles Boyd that appeared in the Wall Street Journal on May 11 which makes a convincing case for the Hayden nomination.

Mr. Speaker, Gen. Boyd served 35 years in the Air Force. As a combat pilot in Vietnam, he was shot down on his 105th mission and survived 2,488 days as a prisoner of war. The only POW from that war to achieve the four-star rank, General Boyd's final military assignment was as deputy commander in chief of U.S. forces in Europe. Prior to this assignment, Gen. Boyd was the commander of Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, in my congressional district.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to place in the RECORD a copy of Gen. Boyd's editorial.

[From the Wall Street Journal, May 11, 2006]

A HAYDEN SYMPHONY AT THE CIA

(By Charles G. Boyd)

Our political disagreements are often obtuse for the simple reason that it is difficult to discern motives. Do disputants put the interests of the country ahead of partisan and personal concerns? Moreover, disagreements about intelligence issues are doubly hard to parse, since—despite leaks and rampant gossip—most of what goes on inside the Central Intelligence Agency remains opaque even to high-paid journalists and other Washington sophisticates. And so, amid partisan positioning and an imposing ignorance, is the scene set for the already dismaying dispute over the president's nomination of Michael Hayden to be CIA director.

The arguments (to use a generous term) being made against Gen. Hayden are so without merit or even serious content that one cannot help but suspect partisan stratagems at work. Of these, three are most common.